

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5-7, as shown in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 5-7 without prejudice to its pursuit in an appropriate continuation or divisional application.

Listing of claims:

1. – 7. (canceled)

8 (previously presented). A method for screening for a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits a human UCP-2 promoter activity, which comprises:

- a. measuring the expression level of a reporter molecule in a transformant, with a human UCP-2 promoter sequence and a base sequence encoding the reporter molecule inserted downstream of the human UCP-2 promoter, contacted to a first sample of the compound or its salt and that in a control transformant, with a base sequence encoding the reporter molecule but with no human UCP-2 promoter, contacted to a second sample of the compound or its salt, wherein the human UCP-2 promoter sequence consists of all or a part of a base sequence consisting of nucleotides 1 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the part of the base sequence consists of nucleotides 255 to 430 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 255 to 717 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 717 to 1133 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1133 to 1389 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 255 to 1857 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 571 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 717 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1133 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1389 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or nucleotides 1634 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- b. comparing the expression levels thereof.

9. – 10. (canceled)

11 (previously presented). A kit for screening for a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits a human UCP-2 promoter activity, which comprises:

- a. a medium for culturing a host animal cell line;
- b. a plasmid for measurement of the human UCP-2 promoter activity, which comprises:
 - i. plasmid DNA carrying a human UCP-2 promoter sequence, wherein the human UCP-2 promoter sequence consists of all or a part of a base sequence consisting of nucleotides 1 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the part of the base sequence consists of nucleotides 255 to 430 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 255 to 717 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 717 to 1133 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1133 to 1389 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 255 to 1857 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 571 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 717 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1133 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1389 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or nucleotides 1634 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - ii. a base sequence encoding a reporter molecule inserted downstream of the human UCP-2 promoter; and
- c. a host animal cell line.

12. – 16. (canceled)

17 (previously presented). The kit of claim 11, wherein the reporter molecule is a luciferase.